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## HEALTH AND WELFARE

*The years of Governor Tawes' second term saw increased emphasis placed on the twin problems of public health and welfare. A highlight of this period was the signing of a State-federal agreement for implementing Medicare—the program of government assistance in financing medical care of the elderly through the Social Security System. The Governor added a personal touch by publicly enrolling himself and Mrs. Tawes in Medicare, an event that drew attention to the new program throughout the State and the nation.*

*During his two terms, Governor Tawes was instrumental in obtaining an increase of some 50 per cent in the State's expenditures for mental health programs. At his instigation, a State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene was created to oversee the activities of the departments of Health and Mental Hygiene. One immediate result was the consolidation of community health services of the two departments. Responsibility for the treatment of alcoholics was placed in the Department of Mental Hygiene, a recognition that alcoholism was a disease and not a crime or untreatable character defect.*

*In the field of welfare, steps were taken to reorganize the State Department of Public Welfare with the goal of improving its efficiency. A new Office of Economic Opportunity was created to carry out the State's responsibilities under Federal anti-poverty legislation. The Governor's interest in the problems of the aging were reflected in increased State aid to nursing homes and in the elimination of age as a barrier to State employment in most agencies.*

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### REMARKS, DEDICATION OF "HOUSE IN THE PINES" NURSING HOME

EASTON

February 10, 1963

I was most delighted when Delegate Thomas Hunter Lowe extended to me your kind invitation to be here today at the dedication of the House in the Pines. As many of you perhaps already know, I have long been interested in the problems involved in providing adequate